(b) if so, the action taken to take up the matter with the appropriate counterparts in Austria for redressal of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. An incident of harassment of a Delhi-based lady architect at Vienna airport has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) Government took up the matter with the Austrian Government and the Austrian Government has undertaken an internal investigation into this allegation.

Invalidating Indian passports for Iraq

2442. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to make the passports of Indians valid for Iraq for the time being;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the number of people to be affected by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Taking into account the current security situation in Iraq, Government of India have, for the time being, advised its citizens to defer their visits to that country and decided that the Protector of Emigrants, while giving emigration clearance for Kuwait and Jordan, will endorse a "NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL TO IRAQ" stamp in the passports. The Government have also sought cooperation of the Governments of Kuwait and Jordan to prevent Indian nationals from crossing over to Iraq. This measure is motivated out of concern for the safety and security of Indian nationals.

(c) It is difficult to give an estimate on this point.

India's claim for permanent seat in Un Security Council

2443. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany is backing India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council;